

JK



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/206,876 12/08/98 MOSING

D FK126

021897 PM82/1105
MATTHEWS JOSEPH SHADDOX & MASON
1800 BERING DRIVE SUITE 900
HOUSTON TX 77057

EXAMINER

NEUDER, W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3672

DATE MAILED:

11/05/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/206,876

Applicant(s)
Mosing et al

Examiner
William P. Neuder

Group Art Unit
3672



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 3672

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. The numbering of claims is not accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

Misnumbered claim 30 has been renumbered 29.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, lines 1,6 and 8, proper antecedent basis could not be found for "the upper end", "the length" and "the inside diameter". In line 5, "with mandrel" should be --with said mandrel--. In line 7, the term "thereof" is not understood. This should be --of said mandrel--. In

Art Unit: 3672

claim 3, lines 2 and 7, no antecedent basis could be found for "the outer surface" and "the travel". Claims 6, 15, 22, 24, 26 and 28 all refer to "operationally balls". This is not understood. In claim 10, lines 1, 7 and 8, no antecedent basis could be found for "the upper end", "the length" and "the inside diameter". Also, the use of the term "thereof" in line 7 is not understood. It should be --of said mandrel--. In claims 16 and 29, lines 1 and 5, no antecedent basis could be found for "the upper end" and "the surface drilling apparatus". Also, the use of the term "therethrough" in line 10 is not understood. The claims must positively recite each and every claimed feature. Where the pathway is provided must be positively set forth. In claim 24, line 2, no antecedent basis could be found for "said cementing assembly". Also, the term "therethrough" found in claim 29, line 10 is not understood.

Double Patenting

4. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321© may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Art Unit: 3672

5. Claims 1-29 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-43 of U.S. Patent No. 5,735,348. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because it would have been considered an obvious design choice to eliminate the packer cup and lower body from the claims of 5,735,348. The claims in the instant application are fully supported in the claims of 5,735,348 and could have been made in that application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

7. Claims 1,2,10,11,16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stokley.

Stokley discloses a fill-up and circulating tool having an extendable mandrel 30. A sleeve 114 relieves pressure through the mandrel. Sealing means are provided on the mandrel for sealing with the casing. As to claim 2, when the mandrel is extended and the seals engage the casing the mandrel is considered fixed. As to claim 10, a pressure relief device 112 is provided.

Art Unit: 3672

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 12 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stokley.

It would have been considered obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided a valve in the device of Stokley since the use of valves to control flow is well known in the oil industry.


Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 3-9, 13-15, 18-28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Neuder whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

W.P.N.

November 3, 1999


William Neuder
Primary Examiner

Application/Control Number: 09/206876

Page 6

Art Unit: 3672